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*70 Years*  
*"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"*

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**Transmitted via Email**

September 8, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-64

SUBJECT: LTP – CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Purpose. To address questions from the field regarding the Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005

In order to conclude the 2005 CSP application/contracting process, please verify that ineligible letters have been sent to producers who were ineligible for the program due to not meeting the minimum eligibility requirements. Also, please verify that letters have been sent to the producers who were ineligible due to lack of funding. This letter is available through Protracts when you change the application status from "Eligible" to "Disapproved" in the Manage Applications screen. You will need to manually enter the location of the National Appeals Division. The address is as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
National Appeals Division  
Eastern Regional Office  
8909 Purdue Road  
Suite 240  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

The following are answers to a number of questions regarding the CSP for 2004 and 2005.

**1. When can we begin modifications to add new items, more acres, and do Tier advances to contracts?**

NHQ is working through the process of when CSP modifications can be made to 2004 and 2005 CSP contracts. ITC will include a build to allow tier transitions in modifications in the near future. We do not know when this will occur. Once these details are worked out, we will be informed of the timeframe for completing new modifications that add land or change tiers for both 2004 and 2005 contracts. It is appropriate to go ahead and collect the necessary documentation from the producers who are interested in adding new land, contract items or transitioning between tiers in order to expedite the process once we receive further instructions from NHQ.

**2. What benchmarks are required to be met for new acres added to a contract?**

If producers seek to add additional acres to their contracts or transition between tiers, the acres must meet the minimum tier eligibility requirements **and** the minimum level of treatment requirements. The CSP manual does not state that the producer needs two years worth of records for additional acres or for transition. They need to prove/demonstrate that they have met the requirements on those acres; therefore, any new practices must be functional. This must be field verified by NRCS. NHQ is reviewing whether additional requirements will be part of the transition process. At this time, it is unknown if the additional acres will have to the same category requirements as the original acres in the contract. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**3. What enhancements can we discuss with the producer for 2006?**

Producers who seek to add new enhancements to their 2005 contracts may choose from the list of 2005 enhancements. They will not be able to choose from the 2006 enhancement list.

**4. What will the rate/ac. be for delayed haying/grazing in 2006?**

The rate for delayed haying and grazing may change for new 2006 enhancements for 2006 contracts. This will NOT impact current 2005 contracts.

**5. If we get whistle blower complaints, how do we handle these complaints locally?  
Should we do status reviews for each complaint?**

For questions regarding contract compliance, please refer to Section 518.101 in the Final CSP Manual. This section includes information regarding Self-Assessment Verification and Contract Reviews.

Additional questions regarding CSP should be directed to Paul Flynn, SRC, 651-602-7870 or paul.flynn@mn.usda.gov.

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

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FO